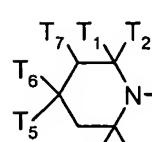
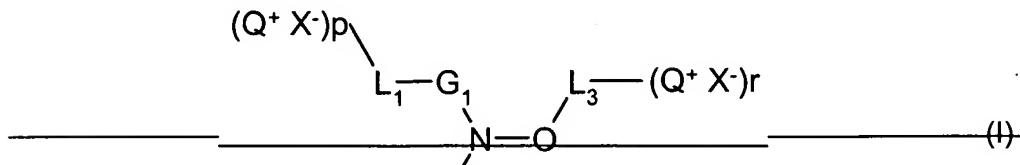
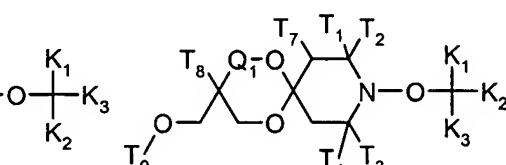


In the Claims:

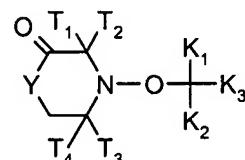
1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I), (Ia), (Ib), (Ic), (Id), (Ie) or (II)



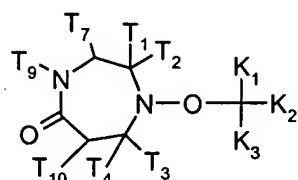
(Ia)



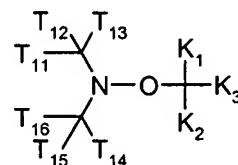
(Ib)



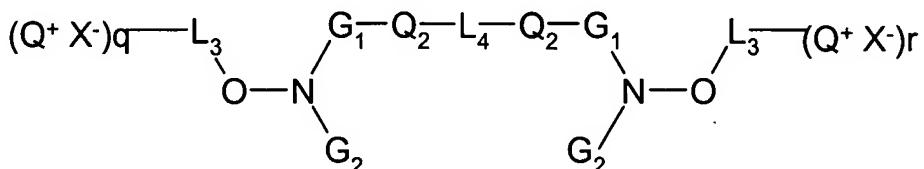
(Ic)



(Id)



(Ie)



wherein

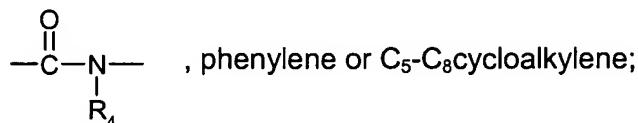
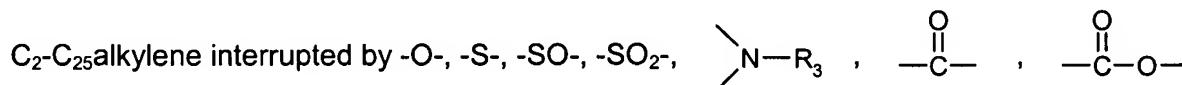
G_1 and G_2 independently represent a tertiary carbon atom to which an unsubstituted C_1 - C_{18} alkyl or phenyl or with CN , COC_1 - C_{18} alkyl, CO -phenyl, $COOC_1$ - C_{18} alkyl, OC_1 - C_{18} alkyl, NO_2 , NHC_1 - C_{18} alkyl or $N(C_1$ - $C_{18})_2$ alkyl substituted alkyl or phenyl groups are bonded; or one of

G_1 and G_2 is a secondary carbon atom to which a group $-P(O)(OR_{22})_2$ is bonded and the other is as defined above; or

G_1 and G_2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded form a 5 to 8 membered heterocyclic ring or a polycyclic or spirocyclic 5 to 20 membered heterocyclic ring system which is substituted with 4 C_1 - C_4 alkyl groups or 2 C_5 - C_{12} spirocycloalkyl groups in the ortho position to the nitrogen atom and which may be further substituted with one or more C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy or $=O$ groups; and which may be interrupted by a further oxygen or nitrogen atom; with the proviso that at least one of the 4 C_1 - C_4 alkyl groups in ortho position to the nitrogen atom is higher alkyl than methyl;

L_4 is a linking group selected from the group consisting of

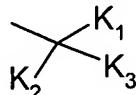
a direct bond, R_1 - Y or R_2 - $C(O)$ - Y - where Y is attached to G_1 and/or G_2 ; C_1 - C_{25} alkylene,



Y is O , or NR_9

Q_2 is a direct bond, O , NR_5 or NR_5R_6 ;

$-L_4(Q^+X^-)-L_2(Q^+X^-)$, and $-L_3(Q^+X^-)$ [[, are]] is a group



wherein

Q_1 is a direct bond or a $-CH_2-$ group; wherein

if Q_1 is a direct bond, T_8 is hydrogen, and

if Q_1 is $-CH_2-$, T_8 is methyl or ethyl;

T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl;

T_7 is hydrogen or methyl;

T_{10} is hydrogen or methyl;

T_5 and T_6 are hydrogen or

T_5 and T_6 together are a group $=O$, $=NOH$, $=NO-T_9$ or

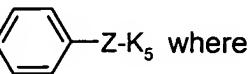
T_5 is hydrogen and T_6 is $-O-T_9$ or $-NR_9-T_9$ where T_9 is hydrogen, R_9 or $-C(O)-R_9$;

T_{11} , T_{12} , T_{13} , T_{14} , T_{15} and T_{16} independently are C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkenyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkinyl,

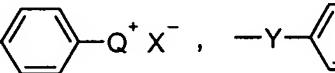
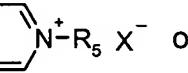
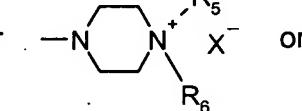
C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, phenyl or C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl; or

T₁₁ is hydrogen and T₁₂ is a group -P(O)(OC₂H₅)₂ and the others are as defined above;
or T₁₁ and T₁₄ are a group -CH₂-O-T₉ and the others are as defined above; or
T₁₆ is a group -C(O)-Y-R₅ and the others are as defined above; or
T₁₁, T₁₂ and T₁₃ are a group -CH₂OH;

K₁ and K₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl and

K₃ is a group -COK₄ or  where

K₄ is -Y-[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻ or
-Y-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ X] R₅R₆]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻}_u,
where s is a number from 0-4 [[0-8]], t is a number from 0-4 and u is 1 and Y is -O- or NR₉; or

K₄ is a group  ,  or  or

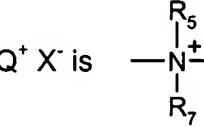
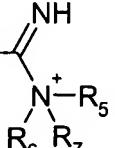
Z is -C(O)- or a direct bond, wherein

if Z is -C(O)-, K₅ has the same meaning as K₄, and

if Z is a direct bond, K₅ is

Y-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻}_u,
Q⁺X⁻, -CH₂Q⁺X⁻ or -CHCH₃Q⁺X⁻;

and Y is -O- [[.]] or -NR₉ or a direct bond;

Q⁺X⁻ is  or  and

wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₁₈alkylene,

R₂ is a direct bond or C₁-C₁₈alkylene,

R₃ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₈alkyl,

R₄ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₈alkyl,

R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are each independently of the others hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, phenyl or C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl or C_6 - C_{10} heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO_2 , CN, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, or

R_5 , R_6 and R_7 together with the nitrogen or phosphorous atom to which they are bonded form a 3-12 membered monocyclic or polycyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms;

R_9 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkenyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkinyl, phenyl, C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, halogen or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy groups ;

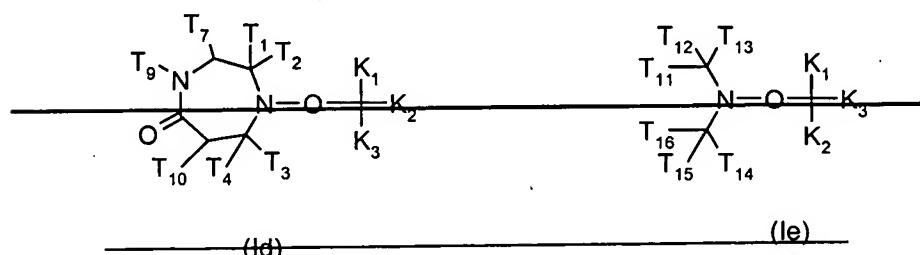
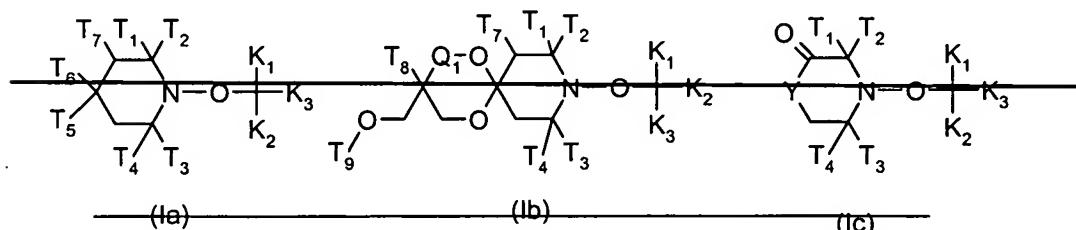
R_{22} is C_1 - C_{18} alkyl;

X^- is the anion of a C_1 - C_{18} carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof ; and

[[p.]] q, and r are independently of each other a number from 0 to 10 and at least one is different from 0.

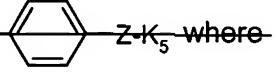
2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 of formulae Ia, Ib, Ic, Id or Ie.

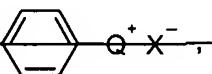
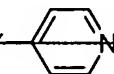
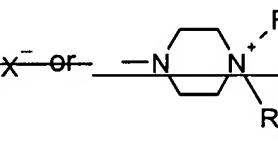


wherein

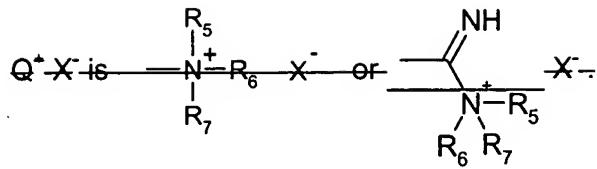
Q_4 is a direct bond or a $-CH_2-$ group; wherein

if Q_1 is a direct bond, T_8 is hydrogen, and
 if Q_1 is CH_2 , T_8 is methyl or ethyl;
 T_4 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl;
 T_7 and T_{10} are independently hydrogen or methyl;
 T_5 and T_6 are hydrogen or
 T_5 and T_6 together are a group $=\text{O}$, $=\text{NOH}$, $=\text{NO-T}_9$ or
 T_5 is hydrogen and T_6 is O-T_9 or NR_9T_9 where T_9 is hydrogen, R_9 or C(O)R_9 , where R_9 is
 hydrogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{18}$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{18}$ alkinyl, phenyl, $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_9$ phenylalkyl, which may be
 unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, halogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkoxy groups;
 T_{11} , T_{12} , T_{13} , T_{14} , T_{15} and T_{16} independently are $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{18}$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{18}$ alkinyl,
 $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkyl, phenyl or $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_9$ phenylalkyl; or
 T_{11} is hydrogen and T_{12} is a group $\text{P(O)(OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2$ and the others are as defined above;
 or T_{11} and T_{14} are a group $\text{CH}_2\text{-O-T}_9$ and the others are as defined above; or
 T_{16} is a group C(O)YR_6 and the others are as defined above; or
 T_{11} , T_{12} and T_{13} are a group CH_2OH ;
 K_4 and K_2 are hydrogen, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkyl, phenyl or $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_9$ phenylalkyl and
 K_3 is a group COK_4 or  where

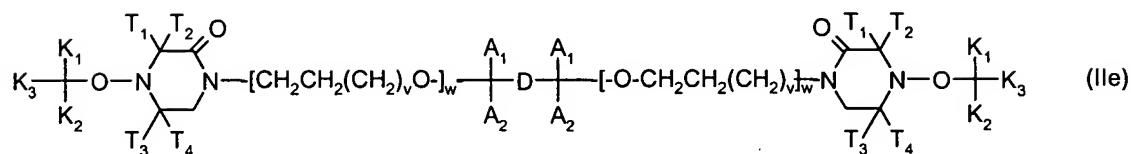
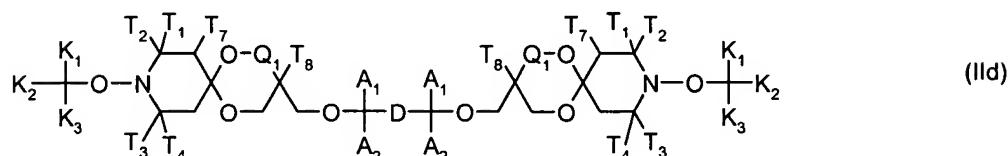
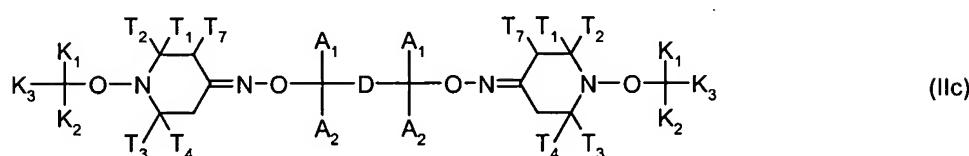
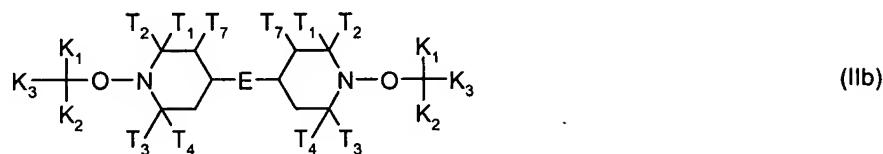
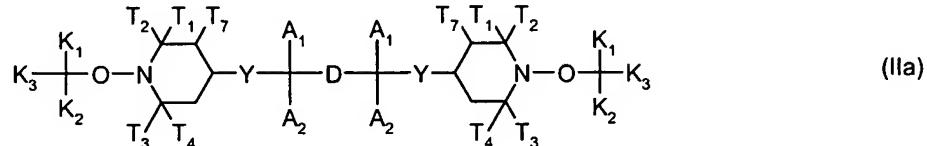
K_4 is $\text{Y}[(\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2)(\text{CH}_2)_s\text{-N}^+\text{R}_5\text{R}_6\text{X}]_t\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_t\text{-N}^+\text{R}_5\text{R}_6\text{R}_7\text{X}^-$ or
 $\text{YCH}_2\text{-CHOH-CH}_2\text{N}^+\text{R}_5\text{R}_6\text{X}^-[(\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2)(\text{CH}_2)_s\text{-N}^+\text{X}\text{R}_5\text{R}_6]_t\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_t\text{-N}^+\text{R}_5\text{R}_6\text{R}_7\text{X}^-$,
 where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or

K_4 is a group Y  Y  or 

Z is C(O) or a direct bond, wherein
 if Z is C(O) , K_5 has the meaning of K_4 , and
 if Z is a direct bond, K_5 is
 $\text{O-CH}_2\text{-CHOH-CH}_2\text{N}^+\text{R}_5\text{R}_6\text{X}^-[(\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2)(\text{CH}_2)_s\text{-N}^+\text{R}_5\text{R}_6\text{X}]_t\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_t\text{-N}^+\text{R}_5\text{R}_6\text{R}_7\text{X}^-$,
 Q^+X^- , $\text{CH}_2\text{Q}^+\text{X}^-$ or $\text{CHCH}_3\text{Q}^+\text{X}^-$;
 Y is O or NR_9 ;



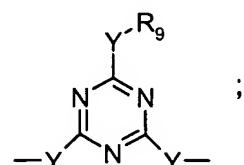
4. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 of formula IIa, IIb, IIc, IId or IIe



wherein

A_1 and A_2 are independently hydrogen or together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded form a carbonyl group, $-C(O)-$;

D is a direct bond or C₁-C₁₂alkylene, C₁-C₁₂alkylene which is interrupted by one or more O, S, or NR₉ atoms, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkylene or phenylene;



E is a group $-\text{NR}_9-(\text{CH}_2)_x-\text{NR}_9-$ where x is a number from 2 to 12, or a group

v is a number from 0 to 10 and w is 0 or 1;

Q₁ is a direct bond or a -CH₂- group; wherein

if Q₁ is a direct bond, T₈ is hydrogen, and

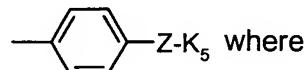
if Q₁ is -CH₂-, T₈ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

Y is -O- or -NR₉;

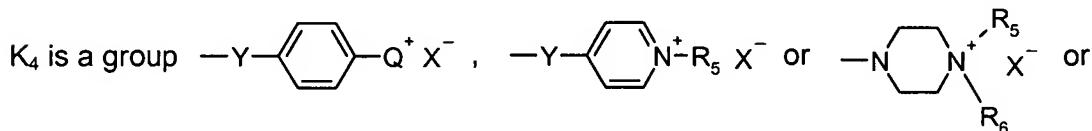
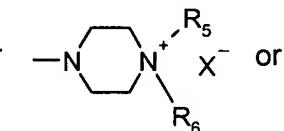
T₁, T₂, T₃ and T₄ are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl;

T₇ is hydrogen or methyl;

K₁ and K₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl and

K₃ is a group -COK₄ or  where

K₄ is Y-[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻ or
-Y-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻}_u,
where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or

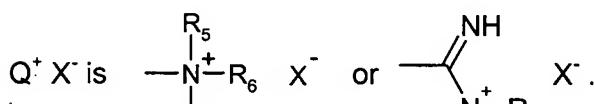
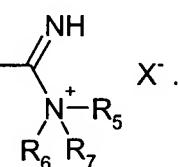
K₄ is a group  or  or

Z is -C(O)- or a direct bond, wherein

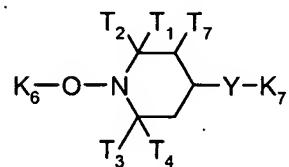
if Z is -C(O)-, K₅ has the meaning of K₄, and

if Z is a direct bond, K₅ is

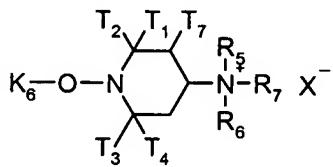
O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻}_u,
Q⁺X⁻, -CH₂Q⁺X⁻ or -CHCH₃Q⁺X⁻;

Q⁺X⁻ is  or .

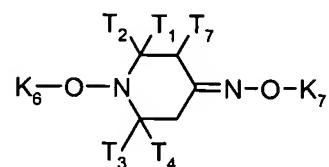
5. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 of formula IIIa, IIIb, IIIc, IIId or IIIe



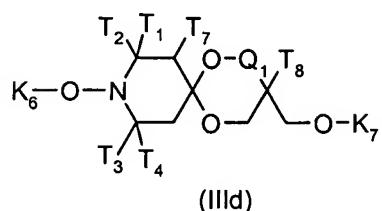
(IIIa)



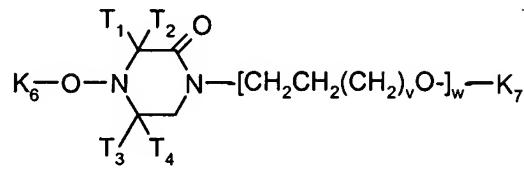
(IIIb)



(IIIc)



(IIId)



(IIIe)

wherein

T₁, T₂, T₃ and T₄ are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl;

T₇ is hydrogen or methyl;

Y is O or NR₉;

Q₁ is a direct bond or a -CH₂- group; wherein

if Q₁ is a direct bond, T₈ is hydrogen, and

if Q₁ is -CH₂-, T₈ is methyl or ethyl;

v is a number from 0 to 10 and w is 0 or 1;

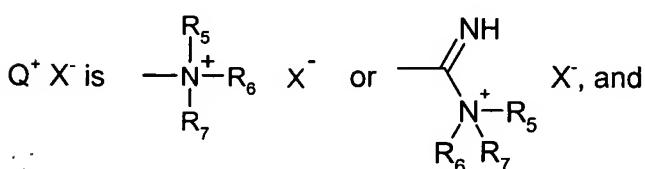
K₇ is a group

-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻]_u ,

where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or a group -D₁-Q⁺ X⁻ where

D₁ is C₁-C₁₂alkylene, C₁-C₁₂alkylene which is interrupted by one or more O, S, or NR₉ atoms,

C₅-C₁₂cycloalkylene or phenylene;



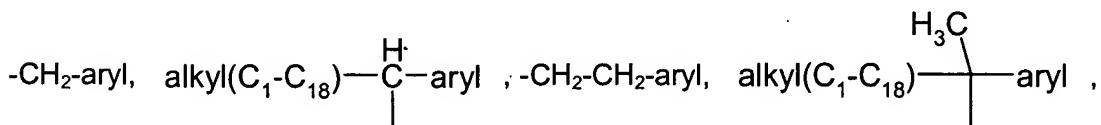
R₅, R₆ and R₇ are each independently of the others hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₃-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl or C₆-C₁₀heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO₂, CN, C₁-C₄alkoxy, or

R_5 , R_6 and R_7 together with the nitrogen or phosphorous atom to which they are bonded form a 3-12 membered monocyclic or polycyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms;

R_9 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkenyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkinyl, phenyl, C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, halogen or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy groups

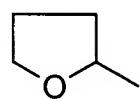
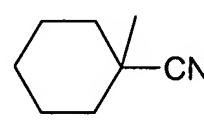
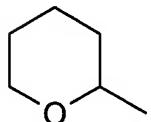
X^- is the anion of a C_1 - C_{18} carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof;

K_6 is selected from the group consisting of

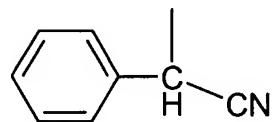


$(C_5\text{-}C_6\text{cycloalkyl})_2\text{CCN}$, $(C_1\text{-}C_{12}\text{alkyl})_2\text{CCN}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH=CH}_2$, $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl-}CR_{30}\text{-C(O)-(C}_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl}$,
 $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl-}CR_{30}\text{-C(O)-(C}_6\text{-}C_{10})\text{aryl}$, $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl-}CR_{30}\text{-C(O)-(C}_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkoxy}$,
 $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl-}CR_{30}\text{-C(O)-phenoxy}$, $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl-}CR_{30}\text{-C(O)-N-di(C}_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl}$,
 $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl-}CR_{30}\text{-CO-NH(C}_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl}$, $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl-}CR_{30}\text{-CO-NH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH=CH-CH}_3$,

$-\text{CH}_2\text{-C(CH}_3\text{)=CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH=CH-phenyl}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{-C}\equiv\text{CH}$, 3-cyclohexenyl, 3-cyclopentenyl,



and



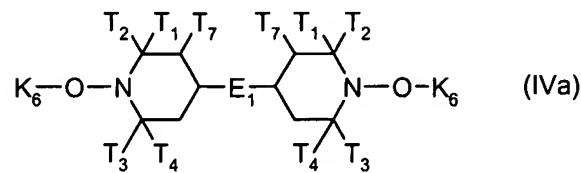
, wherein

R_{30} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_{12} alkyl;

the alkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or more -OH, -COOH or $-\text{C(O)R}_{30}$ groups; and

the aryl groups are phenyl or naphthyl which are unsubstituted or substituted with C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, halogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkylcarbonyl, glycidyloxy, OH, -COOH or $-\text{COO(C}_1\text{-}C_{12})\text{alkyl}$.

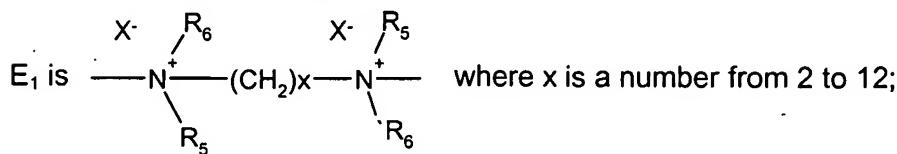
6. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 of formula IVa



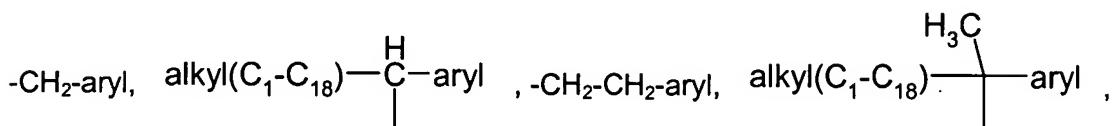
wherein

T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl;

T_7 is hydrogen or methyl;

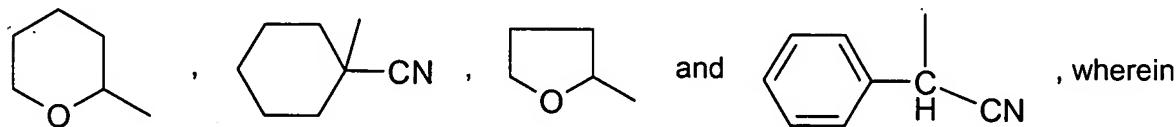


K_6 is selected from the group consisting of



$(C_5-C_6\text{cycloalkyl})_2\text{CCN}$, $(C_1-C_{12}\text{alkyl})_2\text{CCN}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$, $(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{C}(\text{O})-(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}$, $(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{C}(\text{O})-(C_6-C_{10})\text{aryl}$, $(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{20}-\text{C}(\text{O})-(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkoxy}$, $(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{-phenoxy}$, $(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{N-di}(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}$, $(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{CO-NH}(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}$, $(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{CO-NH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH-CH}_3$,

$-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH-phenyl}$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$, 3-cyclohexenyl, 3-cyclopentenyl,

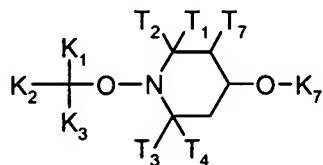


R_{30} is hydrogen or $C_1-C_{12}\text{alkyl}$;

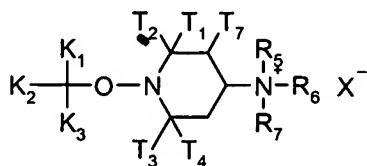
the alkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or more $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{COOH}$ or $-\text{C}(\text{O})R_{30}$ groups; and

the aryl groups are phenyl or naphthyl which are unsubstituted or substituted with $C_1-C_{12}\text{alkyl}$, halogen, $C_1-C_{12}\text{alkoxy}$, $C_1-C_{12}\text{alkylcarbonyl}$, glycidyloxy, OH, $-\text{COOH}$ or $-\text{COO}(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}$.

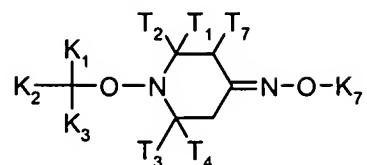
7. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 of formula Va, Vb, Vc, Vd or Ve



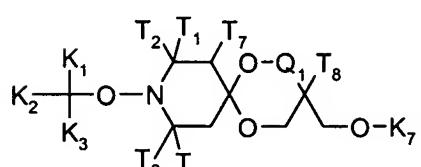
(Va)



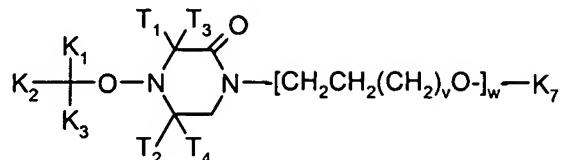
(Vb)



(Vc)



(Vd)



(Ve)

wherein

T₁, T₂, T₃ and T₄ are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl;

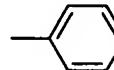
T₇ is hydrogen or methyl;

Q₁ is a direct bond or a -CH₂- group; wherein

if Q₁ is a direct bond, T₈ is hydrogen, and

if Q₁ is -CH₂-, T₈ is methyl or ethyl;

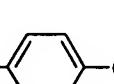
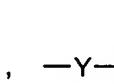
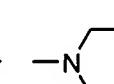
K₁ and K₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl and

K₃ is a group -COK₄ or  where

K₄ is Y-[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻ or

-Y-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻}_u,

where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or

K₄ is a group  ,  or  or

Z is -C(O)- or a direct bond, wherein

if Z is -C(O)-, K₅ has the meaning of K₄, and

if Z is a direct bond, K₅ is

O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻}_u, Q⁺X⁻, -CH₂Q⁺X⁻ or -CHCH₃Q⁺X⁻;

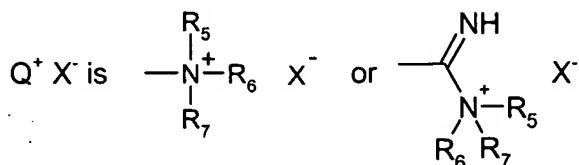
K_7 is a group

$-\text{CH}_2\text{-CHOH-CH}_2\text{-N}^+ \text{R}_5\text{R}_6 \text{X}^- \text{-}\{[(\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{)}\text{-(CH}_2\text{)}_s\text{-N}^+ \text{R}_5\text{R}_6 \text{X}]\text{t-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-(CH}_2\text{)}_s\text{-N}^+ \text{R}_5\text{R}_6 \text{R}_7 \text{X}^u\}$,

where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 0 or 1; or a group $-\text{D}_1\text{-Q}^+ \text{X}^-$ where

D_1 is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ alkylene, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ alkylene which is interrupted by one or more O, S, or NR_9 atoms,

$\text{C}_5\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkylene or phenylene;



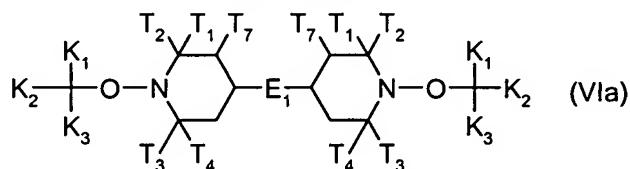
R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are each independently of the others hydrogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ cycloalkyl, phenyl or $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_9$ phenylalkyl or $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}$ heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO_2 , CN, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkoxy, or

R_5 , R_6 and R_7 together with the nitrogen or phosphorous atom to which they are bonded form a 3-12 membered monocyclic or polycyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms;

R_9 is hydrogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{18}$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{18}$ alkinyl, phenyl, $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_9$ phenylalkyl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, halogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkoxy groups

X^- is the anion of a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof.

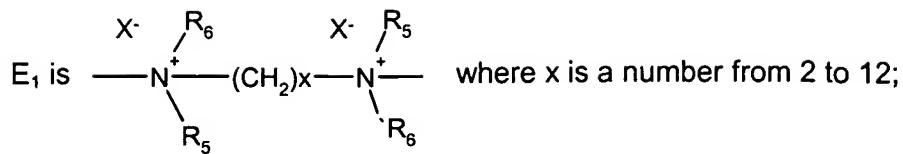
8. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 of formula VIa



wherein

T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl;

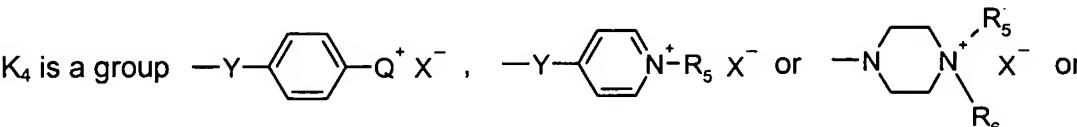
T_7 is hydrogen or methyl;



K₁ and K₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl and

K₃ is a group -COK₄ or  where

K₄ is Y-[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻ or
 -Y-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻}_u,
 where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or

K₄ is a group 

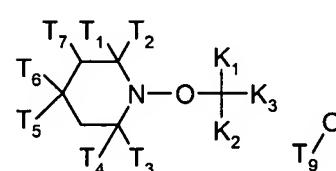
Z is -C(O)- or a direct bond, wherein

if Z is -C(O)-, K₅ has the meaning of K₄, and

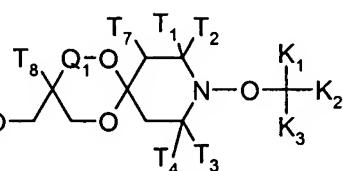
if Z is a direct bond, K₅ is

O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻}_u, Q⁺X⁻,
 -CH₂Q⁺X⁻ or -CHCH₃Q⁺X⁻.

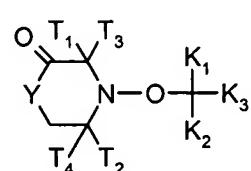
9. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 3 of formula Ia1, Ib1, Ic1, Id1 or Ie1



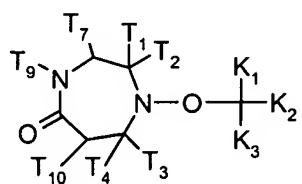
(Ia1)



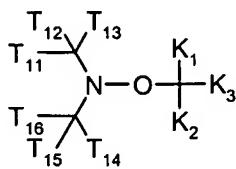
(Ib1)



(Ic1)



(Id1)



(Ie1)

wherein

Q₁ is a direct bond or CH₂;

T₁₇ and T₃ are ethyl and T₂₇ and T₄ are methyl;

T₇ is methyl or H;

if Q₁ is a direct bond, T₈ is H;

if Q₁ is CH₂, T₈ is methyl or ethyl;

T₁₀ is H if T₇ is methyl or T₁₀ is methyl if T₇ is H;

T₁₁, T₁₂, T₁₃, T₁₄, T₁₅ and T₁₆ are independently methyl or ethyl; or

T₁₁ is H, T₁₂ is isopropyl, T₁₃ is phenyl and T₁₄, T₁₅, and T₁₆ are methyl; or

T₁₁ is H, T₁₂ is $-P(=O)(OC_2H_5)_2$, T₁₃ is t-butyl and T₁₄, T₁₅, and T₁₆ are methyl; or

T₁₁ and T₁₄ are $-CH_2O-T_9$ and T₁₂ and T₁₅ are methyl or phenyl and T₁₃ and T₁₆ are methyl or ethyl;

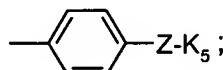
or

T₁₁, T₁₂, T₁₃, T₁₄, T₁₅ are methyl and T₁₆ is a group $-CO-O-R_9$ or $-CON(R_9)_2$; or

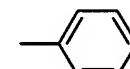
T₁₁, T₁₂ and T₁₃ are $-CH_2OH$, T₁₄ is H, T₁₅ is isopropyl and T₁₆ phenyl;

T₉ is hydrogen, R₉ or $-C(O)-R_9$, where R₉ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₃-C₁₈alkenyl, C₃-C₁₈alkinyl, phenyl, or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl;

K₁ is H, K₂ is methyl or ethyl and

K₃ is a group $-CO-K_4$ or ;

K₄ is $-Y-CH_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_s-N^+X^+R_5R_6R_7$ or; $-Y-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-N-CH_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_s-N^+X^+R_5R_6R_7$ where Y is O or NR₉ and s is a number from 0 to 2;

if K₃ is , Z is $-CO-$ or a direct bond; and

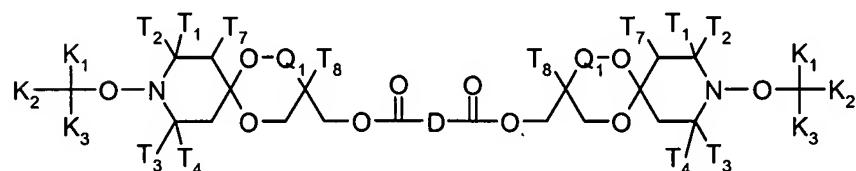
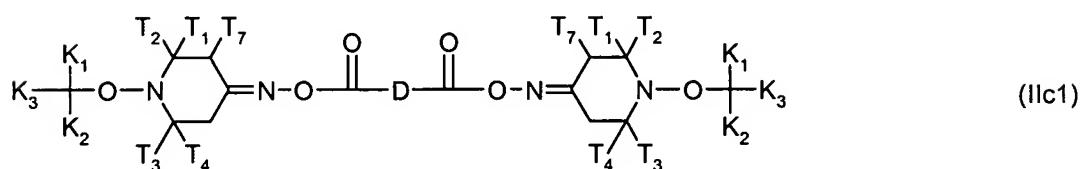
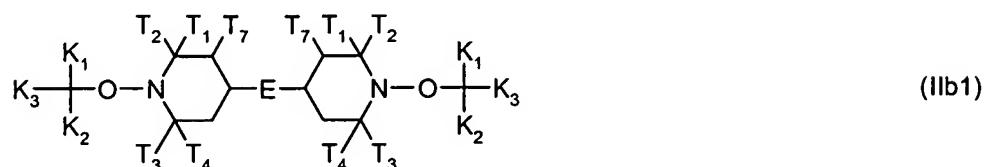
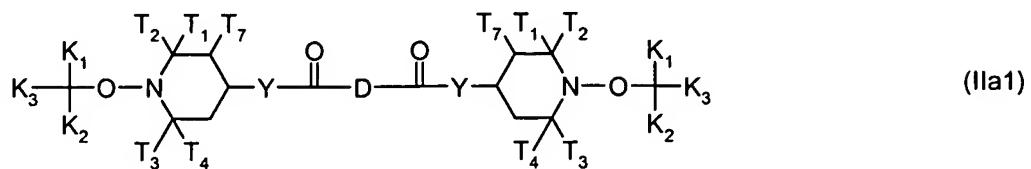
if Z is $-CO-$, K₅ has the same meaning as K₄;

if Z is a direct bond, K₅ is a group $-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-N-CH_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_s-N^+X^+R_5R_6R_7$ or

$-CH_2N^+R_5R_6R_7$ X⁻ and

X⁻ is the anion of a C₁-C₁₈carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C₁-C₁₈alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof.

10. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 4 of formula IIa1, IIb1, IIc1 or IId1



wherein

Q₁ is a direct bond or CH₂;

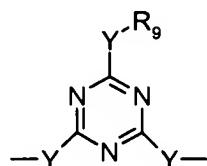
T₁₁ and T₃ are ethyl and T₂, T₄ and T₇ are methyl;

if Q₁ is a direct bond, T₈ is H; and

if Q₁ is CH₂, T₈ is methyl or ethyl;

D is a direct bond, C₁-C₁₂alkylene or phenylene;

E is -NR₅-(CH₂)_x-NR₅- where x is 2 to 12 or a group



wherein Y is =NR₉;

K₁ is H, K₂ is methyl or ethyl and

K₃ is a group -CO-K₄ or -Z-K₅;

K₄ is -Y-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺X⁻R₅R₆R₇ or -Y-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺X⁻R₅R₆R₇, where Y is O or NR₉ and s is a number from 0 to 2;

R_9 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkenyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkinyl, phenyl or C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl;

if K_3 is  $Z-K_5$, Z is $-CO-$ or a direct bond;

if Z is $-CO-$, K_5 has the same meaning as K_4 ;

if Z is a direct bond, K_5 is a group $-O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-N-CH_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_s-N^+X^-R_5R_6R_7$ or $-CH_2N^+R_5R_6R_7X^-$;

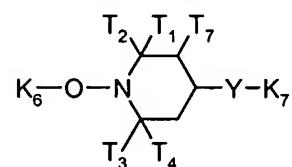
and

X^- is the anion of a C_1 - C_{18} carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof.

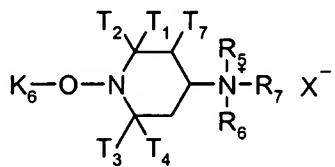
11. (currently amended) A process for preparing a monomer/polymer clay nanocomposite dispersion comprising the steps of

A) providing a first aqueous dispersion of a natural or synthetic clay which can be partially intercalated and/or exfoliated and wherein said clay has an exchangeable cation; adding ~~a compound according to claim 1~~ to said dispersion and exchanging said cation at least partially a compound according to claim 1; or

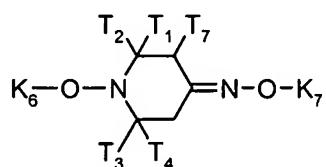
a compound of formula IIIa, IIIb, IIIc, IIId, IIIe, Va, Vb, Vc, Vd or Ve



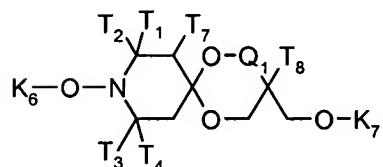
(IIIa)



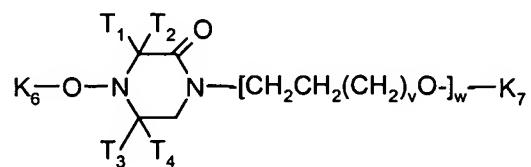
(IIIb)



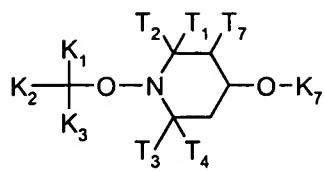
(IIIc)



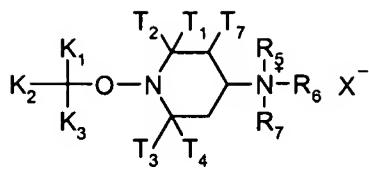
(IIId)



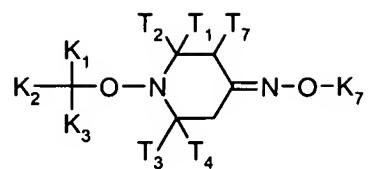
(IIIe)



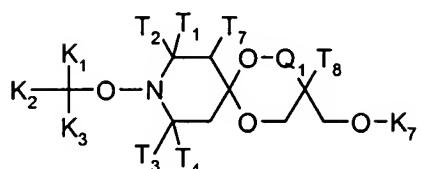
(Va)



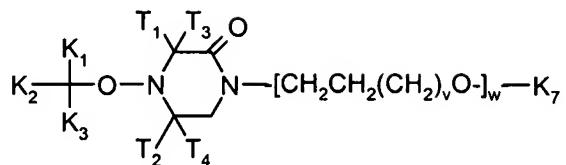
(Vb)



(Vc)



(Vd)



(Ve)

wherein

T₁, T₂, T₃ and T₄ are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl;

T₇ is hydrogen or methyl;

Y is O or NR₉;

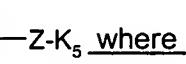
Q₁ is a direct bond or a -CH₂- group; wherein

if Q₁ is a direct bond, T₈ is hydrogen, and

if Q₁ is -CH₂-, T₈ is methyl or ethyl;

v is a number from 0 to 10 and w is 0 or 1;

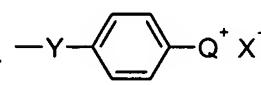
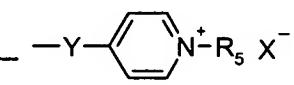
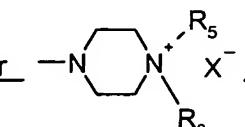
K₁ and K₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl and

K₃ is a group -COK₄ or  where

K₄ is Y-[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆X]-(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_t-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇X or

-Y-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆X-[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆X]-(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_t-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇X]u,

where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or

K₄ is a group   or  or

Z is -C(O)- or a direct bond, wherein

if Z is -C(O)-, K₅ has the meaning of K₄, and

if Z is a direct bond, K₅ is

O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆X-[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆X]-(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_t-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇X]u, Q⁺X-,

-CH₂Q⁺X- or -CHCH₃Q⁺X-;

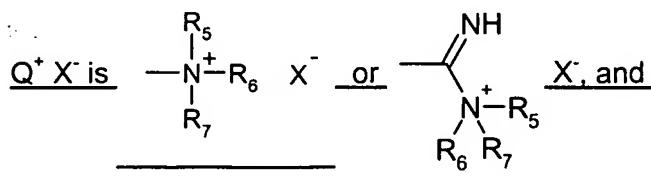
K₇ is a group

-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻}-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_t-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X⁻u,

where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or a group -D₁-Q⁺ X⁻ where

D₁ is C₁-C₁₂alkylene, C₁-C₁₂alkylene which is interrupted by one or more O, S, or NR₉ atoms,

C₅-C₁₂cycloalkylene or phenylene;

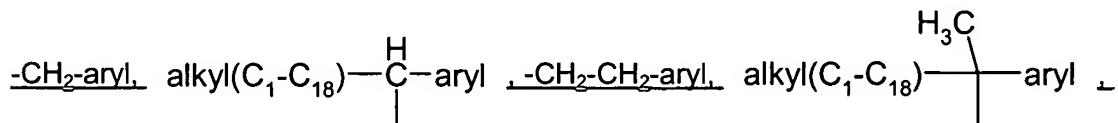


R₅, R₆ and R₇ are each independently of the others hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₃-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl or C₆-C₁₀heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO₂, CN, C₁-C₄alkoxy, or
R₅, R₆ and R₇ together with the nitrogen or phosphorous atom to which they are bonded form a 3-12 membered monocyclic or polycyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms;

R₉ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₃-C₁₈alkenyl, C₃-C₁₈alkinyl, phenyl, C₇-C₉phenylalkyl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, halogen or C₁-C₄alkoxy groups

X⁻ is the anion of a C₁-C₁₈carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C₁-C₁₈alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof;

K₆ is selected from the group consisting of



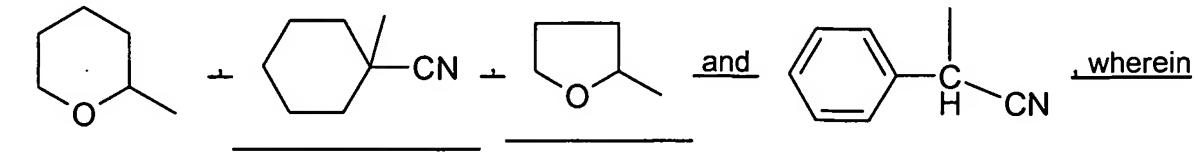
(C₅-C₆cycloalkyl)₂CCN, (C₁-C₁₂alkyl)₂CCN, -CH₂CH=CH₂, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₃₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl,

(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₃₀-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₃₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₂)alkoxy,

(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₃₀-C(O)-phenoxy, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₃₀-C(O)-N-di(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl,

(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₃₀-CO-NH(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₃₀-CO-NH₂, -CH₂CH=CH-CH₃,

-CH₂-C(CH₃)=CH₂, -CH₂-CH=CH-phenyl, -CH₂-C≡CH , 3-cyclohexenyl, 3-cyclopentenyl,



R₃₀ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂alkyl;

the alkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or more -OH, -COOH or -C(O)R₃₀ groups;
and

the aryl groups are phenyl or naphthyl which are unsubstituted or substituted with C₁-C₁₂alkyl,
halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, C₁-C₁₂alkylcarbonyl, glycidyloxy, OH, -COOH or -COO(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl.

B) adding to said dispersion at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer and polymerizing at least a portion of said ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

12. (original) A process according to claim 11 wherein the water phase of step A) is at least partially removed before performing step B).

13. (previously presented) A process according to claim 11 wherein the compound is added in an amount of from 1% to 100% by weight, based on the weight of the clay.

14. (previously presented) A process according to claim 11 wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer is selected from the group consisting of styrene, substituted styrenes, conjugated dienes, acrolein, vinyl acetate, vinylpyrrolidone, vinylimidazole, maleic anhydride, (alkyl)acrylic acid anhydrides, (alkyl)acrylic acid salts, (alkyl)acrylic esters, (meth)acrylonitriles and (alkyl)acrylamides, vinyl halides and vinylidene halides or mixtures thereof.

15. (previously presented) A process according to claim 14 wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomers are styrene, α -methyl styrene, p-methyl styrene or a compound of formula CH₂=C(R_a)-(C=Z)-R_b, wherein R_a is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl, R_b is NH₂, O⁻(Me⁺), glycidyl, unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈alkoxy, C₂-C₁₀₀alkoxy interrupted by at least one N and/or O atom, or hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₁₈alkoxy, unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈alkylamino, di(C₁-C₁₈alkyl)amino, hydroxy-substituted

C_1 - C_{18} alkylamino or hydroxy-substituted di(C_1 - C_{18} alkyl)amino, -O-CH₂-CH₂-N(CH₃)₂ or -O-CH₂-CH₂-N⁺H(CH₃)₂ An⁻; wherein

An⁻ is an anion of a monovalent organic or inorganic acid;

Me is a monovalent metal atom or the ammonium ion; and

Z is oxygen or sulfur.

16. (original) A process according to claim 11 wherein an acid containing unsaturated monomer is added, which is selected from the group consisting of methacrylic anhydride, maleic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, acryloxypropionic acid, (meth)acryloxypropionic acid, styrene sulfonic acid, ethylmethacrylate-2-sulphonic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane, sulphonic acid; phosphoethylmethacrylate; the corresponding salts of the acid containing monomer, and combinations thereof.

17. (original) A process according to claim 11 wherein step B) is repeated with a second ethylenically unsaturated monomer which is different from the first one, leading to a block copolymer.

18. (previously presented) A process according to claim 11 wherein the natural or synthetic clay is selected from the group consisting of montmorillonite, saponite, beidellite, montronite, hectorite, stevensite, vermiculite, kaolinite, hallosite, synthetic phyllosilicates, and combinations thereof.

19. (currently amended) A monomer/polymer clay nanocomposite dispersion obtainable - obtained by a process according to claim 11.

20. (original) A composition comprising an aqueous dispersion of a natural or synthetic clay which is partially intercalated and/or exfoliated and a compound according to claim 1.

21. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 20, which contains additionally an ethylenically unsaturated monomer and/or an organic solvent.

22. (currently amended) A method for the polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated monomers which comprises polymerizing said monomers in the presence of a catalytically effective amount of a compound of formula I or II according to claim 1.

23. (previously presented) A method of improving the properties of paints, coatings, inks, adhesives, reactive diluents or thermoplastic materials which comprises incorporating a monomer/polymer clay nanocomposite dispersion according to claim 19 therein.